

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
August 27, 2004
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Ron Hight
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Mike Knight
Zach Prusak

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Keith Fountain

GUESTS

Liz Alward, Parks and Recreation
Chuck Nelson, Director, Parks and Recreation
Amy Tidd, Preserve Brevard

*August 27, 2004
Approved October 27, 2004*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

August 27, 2004

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Paul Schmalzer called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves as Ross Hinkle had notified the group in advance that he would be unable to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul asked if anyone wanted to provide public comment.

Amy Tidd advised the group that the Board of County Commissioners had approved a referendum for environmentally endangered lands on the ballot for the November election.

MINUTES:

The July 30, 2004 minutes are pending approval. No minutes were presented for review, as a majority was not present at that time.

The July 30, 2004 minutes will be presented for review at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Keith Fountain provided an overview of the Acquisition and Reimbursement Summary. He presented a chart prepared by TNC that showed EEL Acquisition Activity by Year from 1991 to present. Additional information will be provided regarding properties that were considered for acquisition but were not acquired.

The Nature Conservancy will provide information regarding the status of the Hoeing property at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion ensued related to concerns expressed by Commissioner Pritchard regarding recent comments made in one of the Friends of Enchanted Forest Newsletters.

A meeting between Chuck Nelson, Mike Knight, and a representative from the Friends of the Enchanted Forest was held to address those concerns. Corrective steps have been taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

The order of the agenda was changed to allow for Zach Prusak to provide information regarding property in the Malabar area.

Malabar Scrub Out Parcel (Potential EEL Management Office)

Zach provided information on a parcel of land off Malabar Road that is adjacent to the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary and is also between two other parcels of land that are within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project. A house is located on the back side of the property, close to the sanctuary fence. Mrs. Losch, the owner of the 2 ± acre property lives out of state and is interested in selling.

He asked the SMC if they would like to discuss possible issues that acquisition of the land and house for use as the South Region's Management and Education Center would bring about.

The following items were discussed:

- Zoning, whether or not an EEL Office at that location would fit with the Town's Comp plan, and communication with the Town were determined to be important issues.
- It is felt that a staff presence in the area would help address some of the concerns voiced by the Town of Malabar related to illegal activities and vandalism on EEL lands in the area.
- The building could function as a management center with very little improvement required. Improvements could be done in phases with the back porch possibly being converted to a bunkhouse for AmeriCorps volunteers at a later time.
- There is room for an educational component at that location, when the timing is right.
- Additional clearing of land to create an office would not be needed, as this property has been cleared of everything except large oak trees.
- The timing issue for a management center in Malabar is tied to completion of the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center (BIEC).

MOTION ONE

Ron Hight made a motion for the SMC to begin, in preliminary fashion, evaluation of the Losch property as a site to be used as a center of operations for the South Region and possibly other purposes, conditioned upon the two adjacent properties continuing to move toward acquisition.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Plans to meet representatives from the Town of Malabar to discuss this possible acquisition will be coordinated.

Additional information will be provided as it is received.

Cape Atlantic Estates Donation

Mike provided preliminary information on a 2 ± acre parcel of land that is on the west side of I-95 and very close to the Volusia County line. The property has been offered to EEL as a donation.

Additional information will be researched and provided at a future meeting. This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

East Central Florida Regional Conservation Workshop

At a recent meeting, SMC members expressed a desire to continue the meetings of the East Central Florida Regional Conservation Workshop.

Mike will contact key players to attempt to schedule a meeting the first week of November. If that cannot be done, a meeting will be planned for January.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2004 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to begin evaluation of the Losch property as a possible site for a Management and Education Center in the South Region.